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Executive Registry

28-3742

SECURITY INFORMATION

Building and Grounds-1

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION:

9 January 1952

SUBJECT: New CIA Building

CONFIDENTIAL

TIME : 1330 to 1400

DATE : 7 January 1952

PLACE : Public Buildings Service, GSA (Office of Mr. W. E. Reynolds, Commissioner)

THOSE PRESENT: Mr. Reynolds, Commissioner, PBS; Mr. Wolf, DD/A, CIA; Colonel White, ASD/A, CIA

1. Mr. Wolf briefly reviewed our building problem to include the fact that we had permanent authorization to build a new building to house our departmental employees at a cost of \$38,000,000 but that Congress had declined to appropriate the necessary funds at its last session.

2. Mr. Wolf then stated that we were preparing another request to Congress for the necessary appropriation which would be submitted at the first available opportunity during its current session and asked Mr. Reynolds to confirm our understanding that there was no existing structure in the Washington area into which our departmental organization could fit under one roof and none which could be made available to CIA at any time in the foreseeable future. Mr. Reynolds stated that our understanding was entirely correct. Mr. Wolf then asked if Mr. Reynolds thought it would be appropriate for PBS to furnish CIA with a written statement to this effect which could be used at our representations to the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress. Mr. Reynolds stated that he did not consider such a written statement to be necessary and, further, that he would be happy to testify personally before any committees with which we had difficulty.

3. Mr. Wolf related that it was our understanding that the only three possible sites available to us were in the vicinity of (a) Langley, Virginia, (b) Suitland, Maryland, and (c) the Nevius Tract. He added that he did not believe that the Director would be willing to locate our proposed new building at either Suitland or Langley. The plans prepared by PBS for the Nevius Tract are attractive and acceptable. However, it would certainly require the entire \$38,000,000 appropriation to construct a building on this site which would meet with the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. If we are unable to obtain the entire \$38,000,000 appropriation and are forced to contract something for approximately \$25,000,000, we, therefore, cannot construct a building on the Nevius Tract.

4. Mr. Wolf asked for confirmation of our understanding that no other sites were available. Mr. Reynolds replied that a fourth site could be made available.

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This site is on the Soldiers' Home property and construction on this site would not require the architectural fringes that would be necessary for construction on the Nevius Tract.

25X9

6. Mr. Reynolds summarized his position by saying that he did much prefer to see us build on the Nevius Tract and hoped that we could persuade Congress to appropriate the entire \$38,000,000 which would enable us to do so, but that if we were unable to do this and were forced to undertake construction for less money the Soldiers' Home site could be made available. He reiterated his desire to support us in every possible way to include a personal testimony before appropriate committees if necessary.

7. Mr. Wolf indicated that he agreed with Mr. Reynolds and that we would ask Congress for the entire \$38,000,000 with a view toward acquiring the Nevius Tract, the Soldiers' Home site to be considered as an alternate if we must build for less money. He subsequently requested that Mr. Peel, [] and I visit the Soldiers' Home property at our earliest convenience. Arrangements have been made to do this on 8 January 1952. 25X1A

8. In the course of this conversation, Mr. Reynolds stated that he thought we ought to know that it was the President's desire that the Dispersal Plan, which was not favorably considered by Congress at its last session, was to be revived. The President desires that it be resubmitted and NSRB has lowered its minimum distance requirements from the previous 20-mile radius to a 10 to 12-mile radius. Mr. Reynolds feels that if the Dispersal Plan had been based on these figures in the beginning it would have been passed at the last session of Congress. I asked Mr. Reynolds whether in his opinion this should influence CIA in any way in proceeding with the request for our new building. He was positive in his belief that it should not.

L. R. WHITE
Assistant Deputy Director
(Administration)

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